

SHEEHAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Spencer Sheehan
505 Northern Blvd., Suite 311
Great Neck, NY 11021
Telephone: (516) 303-0552
Facsimile: (516) 234-7800
spencer@spencersheehan.com

United States District Court
Southern District of New York

7:19-cv-08207

Justin Clarke, Jane Doe, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiffs

- against -

Tillamook County Creamery Association

Defendant

Class Action Complaint

Plaintiffs by attorneys alleges upon information and belief, except for allegations pertaining to plaintiffs, which are based on personal knowledge:

1. Tillamook County Creamery Association (“defendant”) manufactures, distributes, markets, labels and sells ice cream and/or novelties labeled as types of, or containing vanilla ice cream under the Friendly’s brand (“Products”).¹
2. The Products are available to consumers nationwide from third-party retailers, including brick and mortar and online stores and directly from defendant’s website and production facility.
3. At any given time, defendant sells approximately fifty-one (51) flavors of ice cream across the below four product lines.

¹ “Novelties” refers to products other than ice cream sold by the carton, such as ice cream sandwiches, cones, etc.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Size²</u>	<u>SKUs³</u>
Premium (carton)	1.75 QT/1.66 L	30
Special Batch (carton)	1.5 QT/1.42 L	8
Bars	9 FL OZ/267 ML	6
Sandwiches	2.4 FL OZ/68 ML	6

4. At least eleven (11) of the thirty (30) Products in the Premium line are labeled as containing vanilla ice cream or vanilla light ice cream, exclusively or as part of an ice cream combination.⁴

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>Label Description</u>
Old Fashioned Vanilla	Rich vanilla ice cream made with our special blend of the very best vanillas
Vanilla Bean	Rich vanilla ice cream made with real crushed vanilla bean seeds
Chocolate Chip	Creamy vanilla ice cream sprinkled with chocolaty chips
Mountain Huckleberry	Creamy vanilla ice cream with a tart huckleberry swirl
Waffle Cone Swirl	Smooth chocolate and vanilla ice creams swirled with rich caramel and chunks of chocolaty waffle cone
Marionberry Pie	Rich vanilla ice cream with pie crust pieces and ripe Oregon marionberries
Malted Moo Shake	Smooth, rich malted vanilla ice cream with chocolatey fudge chip
Creamy PB&J	Malted vanilla ice cream with a salted peanut buttery swirl and sweet Concord grape ripple
Caramel Toffee Crunch	Vanilla ice cream with a ripple of caramel and crunch bits of cookie, toffee, pecans and almonds
Blood Orange	Rich vanilla ice cream with a decadent blood orange ripple
Banana Split	Rich vanilla bean and strawberry banana ice creams with walnuts, cherries and a delicious fudge ripple

² $\frac{1}{2}$ QT = 1 PT; 4 QT = 1 Gallon

³ Stockkeeping unit used to refer to an individual flavor or variety.

⁴ 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(f)(6) (applying identical labeling for vanilla ice cream when combined with other flavors, i.e., Neapolitan).

5. The Products are represented as vanilla ice cream on the labels, in point-of-sale marketing, retailers' display ads and promotions, websites, television and/or radio ads.⁵

I. Ice Cream Products

6. Ice cream is a year-round treat enjoyed by 96% of Americans.⁶

7. Its popularity is attributed "to the perfect combination of elements – sugar, [minimum 10% milk] fat, frozen water, and air – that make up the mouthwatering concoction."⁷

8. According to some historians, Thomas Jefferson, considered his vanilla ice cream recipe his second greatest contribution to this nation, after the Constitution.⁸

II. Vanilla is Perennial Favorite Ice Cream Flavor

9. Of all flavors, vanilla is the consistent number one for 28% of consumers, confirmed two groups who would know – the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) (ice cream producers) and National Ice Cream Retailers Association (ice cream parlors).

10. The reasons for vanilla's staying power is "not only because it is creamy and delicious, but also because of its ability to enhance so many other desserts and treats."⁹

11. By some estimates, approximately two-thirds of "all ice cream eaten is either vanilla or vanilla with something stirred into it, like chocolate chips."¹⁰

⁵ 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(f)(6) (applying identical labeling for vanilla ice cream when combined with other flavors, i.e., Neapolitan).

⁶ Arwa Mahdawi, [The big scoop: America's favorite ice-cream flavor, revealed](#), The Guardian, July 11, 2018

⁷ Vox Creative, [The Reason You Love Ice Cream So Much Is Simple: Science](#), Eater.com; 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(a)(2) ("Ice cream and frozen custard.").

⁸ [Thomas Jefferson's Handwritten Vanilla Ice Cream Recipe](#), Open Culture, July 13, 2014; [Thomas Jefferson's Vanilla Ice Cream](#), Taste of Home, June-July 2012; [Thomas Jefferson's Original Vanilla Ice Cream Recipe](#), Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress.

⁹ Press Release, IDFA, [Vanilla Reigns Supreme: Chocolate Flavors Dominate in Top Five Ice Cream Favorites Among Americans](#), July 1, 2018

¹⁰ Bill Daley (the other one), [Which vanilla ice cream is the cream of the crop? We taste test 12 top brands](#), Chicago Tribune, July 18, 2018

12. The applications of vanilla ice cream include its centerpiece between chocolate wafers (“sandwich”), wrapped in a chocolate coating on a stick (bar), topping a warm slice of oven-fresh apple pie (“à la Mode”), drizzled in hot fudge with crushed nuts and a maraschino cherry (“sundae”) or dunked in a cold frothy glass of root beer (“float”).¹¹

III. Vanilla is Constantly Subject to Efforts at Imitation Due to High Demand

13. In 1908, E. M. Chace, Assistant Chief of the Foods Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Chemistry, noted “There is at least three times as much vanilla consumed [in the United States] as all other flavors together.”¹²

14. By law, vanilla refers to “the total sapid and odorous principles extractable from one-unit weight of vanilla beans.”¹³

15. The global landscape since The Pure Food and Drugs Act, enacted in 1906 to “protect consumer health and prevent commercial fraud,” has changed little.¹⁴

16. Daily headlines alert us to this resurgent international threat of “food fraud” – from olive oil made from cottonseeds to the horsemeat scandal in the European Union.¹⁵

17. While “food fraud” has no agreed-upon definition, its typologies encompass an ever-expanding, often overlapping range of techniques with one common goal: giving consumers less than what they bargained for.

¹¹ [The True Wonders of Vanilla Ice Cream](#), FrozenDessertSupplies.com.

¹² E. M. Chace, “The Manufacture of Flavoring Extracts,” Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture 1908 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1909) pp.333–42, 333 quoted in [Nadia Berenstein](#), “[Making a global sensation: Vanilla flavor, synthetic chemistry, and the meanings of purity](#),” History of Science 54.4 (2016): 399-424 at 399.

¹³ 21 C.F.R. §169.3(c)

¹⁴ Berenstein, 412.

¹⁵ Jenny Eagle, ‘[Today’s complex, fragmented, global food supply chains have led to an increase in food fraud](#)’, FoodNavigator.com, Feb. 20, 2019; M. Dourado et al., [Do we really know what’s in our plate?](#). Annals of Medicine, 51(sup1), 179-179 (May 2019); Aline Wisniewski et al., “[How to tackle food fraud in official food control authorities in Germany](#).” Journal of Consumer Protection and Food Safety: 1-10. June 11, 2019.

18. Vanilla is considered a “high-risk [for food fraud] product because of the multiple market impact factors such as natural disasters in the source regions, unstable production, wide variability of quality and value of vanilla flavorings,” second only to saffron in price.¹⁶

19. Its value as the second most expensive flavoring ingredient after saffron has made it a constant target of those seeking to dilute, imitate, adulterate and “extend” the flavor of this tropical orchid.¹⁷

20. These general typologies of food fraud are applied to how it is carried out in vanilla.¹⁸

<u>Type</u>	<u>Example</u>
➤ Cheating on analytical tests by containing markers specifically tested for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manipulation of the carbon isotope ratios to produce synthetic vanillin with similar carbon isotope composition to natural vanilla
➤ Cheating by giving consumers the impression the food or ingredient is present in greater amounts and/or higher quality form than it actually contains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground vanilla beans and/or seeds to provide visual appeal as “specks” so consumer thinks they are a result of the product containing real vanilla bean, when the ground beans have been exhausted of flavor, and any vanilla flavor tasted may not even be due to the presence of real vanilla
➤ Substitution or Replacement a food product/ingredient with an alternate food product/ingredient of lower quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonka beans, which are banned from entry to the United States, instead of vanilla beans; Coumarin, phytochemical found in Tonka beans, to increase the vanilla flavor perception.

¹⁶ Société Générale de Surveillance SA, (“SGS”), [Authenticity Testing of Vanilla Flavors – Alignment Between Source Material, Claims and Regulation](#), May 2019.

¹⁷ “Extend” in the context of flavoring is a modern way to say “dilute” or “adulterate” – to make what is being “extended” go farther. Since “dilute” and “adulterate” have a deserved negative connotation, the flavor industry and technical trade literature use the euphemistic term, “extend,” or sometimes “fortify.”

¹⁸ Kathleen Wybourn, DNV GL, [Understanding Food Fraud and Mitigation Strategies](#), PowerPoint Presentation, Mar. 16, 2016.

- Coloring agents to produce a more attractive color
 - Caramel in vanilla extracts to darken the substance's color additives like caramel to enhance the hue of an imitation vanilla so it more closely resembles real vanilla;¹⁹
 - Annatto and turmeric in dairy products purporting to be flavored with vanilla, to darken the color to better resemble the hue of rich, yellow butter.
 - Synthetically produced ethyl vanillin, derived from wood pulp, tree bark or coal tar.
- Addition of less expensive substitute ingredient to mimic flavor of more valuable component
- Ingredient list deception²⁰
 - Subtle, yet deliberate misidentification and obfuscation of a product's components and qualities as they appear on the ingredient list – “ground vanilla beans” as containing actual vanilla flavor when they are devoid of any naturally occurring vanilla flavor.
- Diluting/Extending
 - Combination with a variety of flavoring substances such as propenyl guaethol (“Vanitrope”), a “flavoring agent [, also] unconnected to vanilla beans or vanillin, but unmistakably producing the sensation of vanilla.”²¹
 - “Spiking” or “fortification” of vanilla through addition of natural flavors which simulate the taste of vanilla, contrary to consumer expectations and law.

¹⁹ Renée Johnson, “Food fraud and economically motivated adulteration of food and food ingredients.” Congressional Research Service R43358, January 10, 2014.

²⁰ Recent example of this would be “evaporated cane juice” as a more healthful sounding term to consumers to identify sugar

²¹ Berenstein, 423.

21. The “food fraud” typologies evident in the Products include one or more of the above-described types.

IV. What Consumers Expect from Ice Cream Labeling

22. To prevent deception of consumers, the labeling of ice cream is divided into three categories which differ based on (1) the source(s) of the characterizing flavor, (2) the flavor which predominates, (3) the amount of each flavor component and (4) the percent of the total flavor component represented by a flavor component.

23. For ice cream, any flavor not derived from the characterizing flavor is considered an artificial flavor.

24. For decades, consumers have expected products containing vanilla ice cream to be exclusively flavored by real vanilla derived from the vanilla plant and contain a sufficient amount of vanilla to characterize the food, designated as vanilla flavor or vanilla extract on the ingredient list (“Category 1”).²²

25. If an ice cream contains a natural characterizing flavor (i.e., vanilla) and an artificial flavor simulating it, and if the natural flavor predominates, a non-misleading label would be expressed in the following form:

[“characterizing flavor”] + [“flavored”] + [“ice cream”] → “Vanilla flavored ice cream” or “Peach flavored ice cream.”²³ (“Category 2”).

26. If an ice cream contains a natural characterizing flavor and an artificial flavor simulating it, and if the artificial flavor predominates, or if only artificial flavor is used, a non-misleading label would be expressed in the following form:

[“artificial” or “artificially flavored”] + [“characterizing flavor”] + [“ice cream”]

²² 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(f)(2)(i); 21 C.F.R. § 169.175-182.

²³ 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(f)(2)(ii).

→ “artificially flavored Vanilla ice cream” or “artificially flavored Strawberry ice cream.”²⁴ (“Category 3”).

V. Vanilla Ice Cream Products are Misleading

27. For explanatory purposes, the flagship Product, Old Fashioned Vanilla, will be used, since the relevant representations are consistent across the Products.

Old-Fashioned Vanilla Ice Cream



28. The Products are represented as “vanilla ice cream” and expected by consumers to only contain flavor derived from the characterizing flavor, vanilla.²⁵

29. The consumer gets the impression that vanilla is the sole flavor source due to one or more of the front label representations including:

- “Vanilla”
- “Old Fashioned Vanilla Ice Cream”

²⁴ 21 C.F.R. § 135.110(f)(2)(iii).

²⁵ Category I.

- “Rich vanilla ice cream made with our special blend of the very best vanillas”
- Absence of the term “flavored” or “artificially flavored,” or variations thereof, indicating the products contain only flavor from the characterizing flavor – vanilla
- Vanilla flower vignette
- Scoop of ice cream which has orange and/or yellow hue

A. Ingredient List Reveals Flavor is Not Exclusively from Vanilla

30. The representations that the vanilla flavor is exclusively derived from the vanilla plant is misleading because the ingredient lists reveals the Product contains “Natural Flavor” in addition to “Natural Vanilla Flavor,” indicated in the ingredient list, presented with the Nutrition Facts below.

Nutrition Facts

Nutrition Facts	
about 11 servings per container	
Serving size	2/3 cup (95g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	210
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 13g	17%
Saturated Fat 8g	40%
<i>Trans</i> Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 40mg	13%
Sodium 55mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 22g	8%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 22g	
Includes 16g Added Sugars	32%
Protein 4g	
Vit. D 0mcg 0% • Calcium 130mg 10%	
Iron 0mg 0% • Potassium 180mg 4%	
*The % Daily Value tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.	

Ingredient List

INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, MILK, SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR, NATURAL FLAVOR, TARA GUM, GUAR GUM.

INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, MILK, SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, **NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR**, **NATURAL FLAVOR**, TARA GUM, GUAR GUM.

31. The Products’ flavor components are identical across the Products purporting to be

vanilla ice cream varieties.

B. Natural Flavor is not a Synonym for Vanilla Flavor or Vanilla Extract in the Products

32. A natural flavor in the context of ice cream means a flavor that was derived from the product whose flavor is simulated – i.e., in a type of vanilla ice cream, a natural flavor is only derived from the vanilla plant.²⁶

33. Defendant's listing of "natural flavor" is not another way to refer to the exclusively vanilla ingredients consumers expect, and the law requires.

34. These exclusively vanilla ingredients – vanilla flavor or vanilla extract – differ only in that the former is at least thirty-five (35) percent ethyl alcohol while the latter is less than this amount.²⁷

35. If the Products contained either of the exclusively vanilla ingredients, as the sole source of the characterizing flavor, there would not be a need to declare or identify other flavors in the ingredient list with the name "Natural Flavor."

36. Additionally, it would be illogical to use a more expensive and higher quality ingredient (vanilla extract or flavor) but designate it with a vague term perceived by consumers to cost less money and appearing on most foods ("natural flavor").

C. Natural Flavor does not refer to the Standardized Vanilla-Vanillin Ingredients

37. The vanilla standards reference three vanilla-vanillin combinations – Vanilla-vanillin extract, Vanilla-vanillin flavoring and Vanilla-vanillin powder.²⁸

²⁶ Compare 21 C.F.R. § 101.22 (natural flavor) with 21 C.F.R. § 169.175 (Vanilla extract.) and § 169.177 (Vanilla flavoring.).

²⁷ 21 C.F.R. §§ 169.175 (Vanilla extract.), 169.177 (Vanilla flavoring.);

²⁸ 21 C.F.R. § 169.180, § 169.181, § 169.182.

38. The standardized vanilla ingredients – vanilla extract, vanilla flavoring, concentrated vanilla flavoring, and vanilla powder – could be understood as complying with the requirements for “natural flavor.”²⁹

39. However, the “vanillin” referred to in the standardized combination ingredients is produced from non-vanilla bean materials, like wood pulp, coal tar or plant fiber.

40. While vanillin is a main flavoring component of vanilla, only 1-2% of vanillin in commercial use is vanillin obtained from the vanilla plant.

41. This type of “natural vanillin” is rarely produced, which means that almost all vanillin is synthetically produced and has no connection to the vanilla bean.

42. For the purposes of ice cream flavor labeling, vanillin (from non-vanilla sources) cannot be designated as a “natural flavor” because it implies it derives from vanilla beans, whose flavor it simulates.³⁰

43. This applies even when vanillin is produced through a natural process (fermentation), such that it is properly designated as “vanillin derived naturally through fermentation.”

44. This means if a vanilla flavor is derived from any source other than vanilla, it is accurately designated as an artificial flavor.³¹

45. Therefore, the standardized vanilla-vanillin combination ingredients are not the ingredients used in the Products but for some reason, designated as “natural flavor.”

D. “Natural Vanilla Flavor” and “Natural Flavor” Refers to Vanilla With Other Natural Flavors (“Vanilla WONF”)

²⁹ 21 C.F.R. § 169.175 (Vanilla extract.), § 169.176 (Concentrated vanilla extract.), § 169.177 (Vanilla flavoring.), § 169.178 (Concentrated vanilla flavoring.) and § 169.179 (Vanilla powder.).

³⁰ 21 C.F.R. § 101.22(a)(3)

³¹ In contrast to the regulations at 21 C.F.R. § 101.22.

46. When adding complicated flavors to a product, a flavor supplier typically mixes various flavors together into one package, for convenience and processing.

47. A typical ingredient used when giving consumers less vanilla than they are expecting is known as “Vanilla With Other Natural Flavors” or “Vanilla WONF.”

48. Given the Products’ ingredients – “NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR, NATURAL FLAVOR,” it is more than probable these were a combination flavor sold to defendant as “Vanilla With Other Natural Flavors.”

49. In vanilla ice cream, it is (1) unlawful to include flavoring that is not derived from the characterizing flavor, vanilla and (2) misleading to simulate, reinforce and “extend” the taste of vanilla through “Natural Flavor” because this will make the consumer (i) think they received more vanilla than they actually did, (ii) expect all of the vanilla flavor or taste imparted by the Products is derived from vanilla beans and (iii) they will pay more for such product.

50. No standardized vanilla ingredients provide for “other natural flavors” to be added with a vanilla flavoring or extract because this would result in the spiking or fortification of the vanilla flavor.

VI. Products are Misleading Because Labeled and Named Similarly to Other Higher Quality Products

51. Competitor brands to defendant’s are labeled as vanilla ice cream and unlike defendant’s Products, are not misleading to consumers nor contain ingredients contrary to law.

Competitor Product

Product



INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, CANE SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, VANILLA EXTRACT.

INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, CANE SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, VANILLA EXTRACT.



INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, MILK, SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR, NATURAL FLAVOR, TARA GUM, GUAR GUM.

INGREDIENTS: CREAM, SKIM MILK, MILK, SUGAR, EGG YOLKS, **NATURAL VANILLA FLAVOR**, **NATURAL FLAVOR**, TARA GUM, GUAR GUM.

52. Where two similarly labeled products are represented similarly as to quality and/or fill, yet one product contains a greater amount and/or proportion of the characterizing flavor components, relative to the total flavor component, consumers will be deceived and pay more money for the latter product under the false impression that it contains the equivalent amount of said ingredients or components.

VII. Conclusion

53. The proportion of the characterizing component, vanilla, has a material bearing on price or consumer acceptance of the Products because it is more expensive and desired by consumers.

54. Had Plaintiff and Class members known the truth about the Products, they would not have bought the Product or would have paid less for it.

55. The Products contain other representations which are misleading and deceptive.

56. As a result of the false and misleading labeling, the Products are sold at premium prices, approximately no less than \$8.79, per 1.5 quart (1.42L) (across the Products), excluding tax – compared to other similar products represented in a non-misleading way.

Jurisdiction and Venue

57. Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

58. Upon information and belief, the aggregate amount in controversy is more than \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interests and costs.

59. This court has personal jurisdiction over defendant because it conducts and transacts business, contracts to supply and supplies goods within New York.

60. Venue is proper because plaintiff and many class members reside in this District and defendant does business in this District and State.

61. A substantial part of events and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District.

Parties

62. Named Plaintiff is a citizen of Dutchess County, New York.

63. Jane Doe plaintiffs are citizens of the 49 states for which the identity of a named plaintiff has not been disclosed, but who were affected in the same manner as the Named Plaintiffs.

64. The allegations as related to laws of other states where no named plaintiff has been disclosed serves as a placeholder upon joinder or amendment.

65. Defendant is an Oregon cooperative corporation with a principal place of business in

Tillamook, Oregon (Tillamook County).

66. During the class period, Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs purchased one or more of the Products for personal use, consumption or application with the representations described herein, for no less than the price indicated, *supra*, excluding tax, within their districts and/or states.

67. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs purchased the Products based upon the representations on the packaging.

68. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs would consider purchasing the Products again if there were assurances that the Products' representations were no longer misleading.

Class Allegations

69. The classes will consist of all consumers in all 50 states with sub-classes for the individual states.

70. The present complaint contains Named Plaintiffs from: New York, who will represent his/her/their state sub-classes of persons who purchased any Products containing the actionable representations during the statutes of limitation.

71. Common questions of law or fact predominate and include whether the representations were likely to deceive reasonable consumers and if Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members are entitled to damages.

72. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs' claims and the basis for relief are typical to other members because all were subjected to the same representations.

73. Named Plaintiffs are adequate representatives because their interests do not conflict with other members.

74. No individual inquiry is necessary since the focus is only on defendant's practices and the class is definable and ascertainable.

75. Individual actions would risk inconsistent results, be repetitive and are impractical to justify, as the claims are modest.

76. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs' counsel is competent and experienced in complex class action litigation and intends to adequately and fairly protect class members' interests.

77. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs seek class-wide injunctive relief because the practices continue.

New York General Business Law ("GBL") §§ 349 & 350, California Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Civ. Code §§ 1750-1785 ("CLRA") and Consumer Protection Statutes of Other States and Territories

78. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs assert causes of action under the consumer protection statutes of the all 50 states, with Named Plaintiff asserting the consumer protection laws of his or her individual state.

- a. Alabama Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Ala. Code § 8-19-1, *et. seq.*;
- b. Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act, Ak. Code § 45.50.471, *et. seq.*;
- c. Arizona Consumer Fraud Act, Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 44-1521 *et. seq.*;
- d. Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Ark. Code § 4-88-101, *et. seq.*;
- e. California Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.* and Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. Prof. Code §§ 17200- 17210 *et. seq.*;
- f. Colorado Consumer Protection Act, Colo Rev. Stat § 6-1-101, *et. seq.*;
- g. Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, Conn. Gen Stat § 42-110a, *et. seq.*;
- h. Delaware Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 6 Del. Code § 2511, *et. seq.*;
- i. District of Columbia Consumer Protection Procedures Act, D.C. Code §§ 28-3901, *et. seq.*;
- j. Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices, Act *Florida Statutes*§ 501.201, *et. seq.*;
- k. Georgia Fair Business Practices Act, §10-1-390 *et. seq.*;
- l. Hawaii Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act, Hawaii Revised Statutes § 480 1, *et. seq.* and Hawaii Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Hawaii Revised Statute § 481A-1, *et. seq.*;
- m. Idaho Consumer Protection Act, Idaho Code § 48-601, *et. seq.*;
- n. Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS § 505/1, *et. seq.*;
- o. Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, Ind. Code §§ 24-5-0.5-1 *et. seq.*;
- p. Iowa Consumer Fraud and Private Right of Action for Consumer Frauds Act, Iowa Code Ann. § 714.16 *et seq.*;
- q. Kansas Consumer Protection Act, Kan. Stat. Ann §§ 50 626, *et. seq.*;
- r. Kentucky Consumer Protection Act, Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 367.110, *et. seq.*, and the Kentucky Unfair Trade Practices Act, Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann § 365.020, *et. seq.*;
- s. Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 51:1401, *et. seq.*;

- t. Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, 5 Me. Rev. Stat. § 205A, *et. seq.*, and Maine Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, § 1211, *et. seq.*;
- u. Maryland Consumer Protection Act, Md. Code, Com. Law § 13-101 *et seq.*;
- v. Massachusetts Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act, Mass. Gen Laws Ch. 93A;
- w. Michigan Consumer Protection Act, §§ 445.901, *et. seq.*;
- x. Minnesota Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act, Minn. Stat §§ 325F.68, *et. seq.*; and Minnesota Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Minn. Stat. § 325D.43, *et. seq.*;
- y. Mississippi Consumer Protection Act, Miss. Code An. §§ 75-24-1, *et. seq.*;
- z. Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 407.010, *et. seq.*;
- aa. Montana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act, Mont. Code § 30-14-101, *et. seq.*;
- bb. Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, neb. Rev. Stat. § 59 1601 *et. seq.*, and the Nebraska Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 87-301, *et. seq.*;
- cc. Nevada Trade Regulation and Practices Act, Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 598.0903, *et. seq.*;
- dd. New Hampshire Consumer Protection Act, N.H. Rev. Stat. § 358-A:1, *et. seq.*;
- ee. New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 56:8 1, *et. seq.*;
- ff. New Mexico Unfair Practices Act, N.M. Sta. Ann. §§ 57 12 1, *et. seq.*;
- gg. **New York General Business Law (“GBL”) §§ 349 & 350;**
- hh. North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 75: Monopolies, Trusts and Consumer Protection, N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1.1 through 75-35;
- ii. North Dakota Consumer Fraud Act, N.D. Cent. Code §§ 51 15 01, *et. seq.*;
- jj. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 1345.02 and 1345.03; Ohio Admin. Code §§ 109;
- kk. Oklahoma Consumer Protection Act, Okla. Stat. 15 § 751, *et. seq.*;
- ll. Oregon Unfair Trade Practices Act, Ore. Rev. Stat. § 646.608(e) & (g);
- mm. Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. §§ 201-1 *et. seq.*;
- nn. Rhode Island Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 6-13.1-1 *et. seq.*;
- oo. South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, S.C. Code Law § 39-5-10, *et. seq.*;
- pp. South Dakota’s Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, S.D. Codified Laws §§ 37 24 1, *et. seq.*;
- qq. Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-101 *et. seq.*;
- rr. Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code Ann. §§ 17.41 *et. seq.*;
- ss. Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act, Utah Code Ann. §§ 13-11-1 *et. seq.*;
- tt. Vermont Consumer Fraud Act, Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 9, § 2451, *et. seq.*;
- uu. Virginia Consumer Protection Act, Va. Code Ann. §§ 59.1-196 *et. seq.*;
- vv. Washington Consumer Fraud Act, Wash. Rev. Code § 19.86/0101, *et. seq.*;
- ww. West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act, West Virginia Code § 46A-6-101, *et. seq.*;
- xx. Wisconsin Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Wis. Stat. §§ 100.18, *et. seq.*; and
- yy. Wyoming Consumer Protection Act, Wyo. Stat. Ann. §§ 40-12-101 *et. seq.*;

79. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members assert causes of action under the consumer protection laws of their States.

80. Defendant's conduct was misleading, deceptive, unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair because (1) it gives the impression to consumers the Products contain more of the characterizing ingredients than they actually do and (2) the ingredient list fails to dispel ambiguity and reinforces the front-label impression as to a greater amount of the characterizing ingredients.

81. Defendant's acts, practices, advertising, labeling, packaging, representations and omissions are not unique to the parties and have a broader impact on the public.

82. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members desired to purchase products which were as described by defendant and expected by reasonable consumers, given the product type.

83. After mailing appropriate notice and demand, Named and/or Jane Doe Plaintiffs who reside in a State where notice is required prior to seeking damages under that State's Consumer Protection Statutes, will have mailed and/or have amended this complaint to request damages. Cal. Civil Code § 1782(a), (d); Mass. UDAP, Mass. Gen Laws Ch. 93A, etc.

84. The representations and omissions were relied on by Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members, who paid more than they would have, causing damages.

Negligent Misrepresentation

85. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.

86. Defendant misrepresented the misrepresents the substantive, quality, compositional, organoleptic and/or nutritional attributes of the Products through representing the characterizing ingredient was present in greater amount than it actually was.

87. Defendant had a duty to disclose and/or provide non-deceptive labeling of the Products and knew or should have known same were false or misleading.

88. This duty is based on defendant's position as an entity which has held itself out as having special knowledge in the production, service and/or sale of the product type, given that defendant is a dairy cooperative and deals exclusively in products based on milk.

89. The representations took advantage of cognitive shortcuts made by consumers at the point-of-sale and their trust placed in defendant, a well-known and widely recognized and respected brand in this sector for this type of product.

90. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members reasonably and justifiably relied on these negligent misrepresentations and omissions, which served to induce and did induce, the purchase of the Products.

91. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members would not have purchased the Products or paid as much if the true facts had been known, suffering damages.

Breaches of Express Warranty Implied Warranty of Merchantability and
Magnuson Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301, et seq.

92. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs incorporate by references all preceding paragraphs.

93. Defendant manufactures and sells products which contain a characterizing ingredient or flavor which is desired by consumers.

94. The Products warranted to Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members that they possessed substantive, functional, nutritional, qualitative, compositional, organoleptic, sensory, physical and other attributes which they did not.

95. Defendant's front labels informed Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs the Products contained flavoring exclusively from vanilla, when this was not accurate.

96. Defendant had a duty to disclose and/or provide a non-deceptive description of the Products' ingredients and knew or should have known same were false or misleading.

97. This duty is based, in part, on defendant's position as one of the most recognized

companies in the nation in this sector

98. The Products warranted to Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members that the characterizing ingredients, emphasized by the Products' name, description, label and/or website and marketing, was (1) present in an amount sufficient to characterize the Products and (2) the exclusive source of flavor in the Products.

99. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs provided or will provide notice to defendant and/or its agents, representatives or retailers.

100. The Products did not conform to their affirmations of fact and promises, wholly due to defendant's actions and were not merchantable.

101. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members relied on defendant's claims, paying more than they would have.

Fraud

102. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs incorporate by references all preceding paragraphs.

103. Defendant's purpose was to sell a product which contained a valuable and desired characterizing ingredient or flavor, and represent the Products were exclusively or predominantly flavored from that ingredient, and contained sufficient independent amounts of same such that they would accurately be described by the product name ascribed to them.

104. The Products were not flavored exclusively from the characterizing ingredient.

105. Defendant's fraudulent intent is evinced by its failure to accurately identify the Products on their front labels when it was in a position to disclose this but did not accurately describe the nature of the Products.

106. Defendant's intent was to secure economic advantage in the marketplace against competitors by appealing to consumers who value products with this characterizing ingredient for

the above-described reasons.

107. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs and class members observed and relied on defendant's claims, causing them to pay more than they would have, entitling them to damages.

Unjust Enrichment

108. Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs incorporate by references all preceding paragraphs.

109. Defendant obtained benefits and monies because the Products were not as represented and expected, to the detriment and impoverishment of plaintiff and class members, who seek restitution and disgorgement of inequitably obtained profits.

Jury Demand and Prayer for Relief

Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs demand a jury trial on all issues.

WHEREFORE, Named and Jane Doe Plaintiffs pray for judgment:

1. Declaring this a proper class action, certifying named plaintiffs as representatives and the undersigned as counsel for the class;
2. Entering preliminary and permanent injunctive relief by directing defendant to correct the challenged practices to comply with the law;
3. Injunctive relief to remove and/or refrain from the challenged representations, restitution and disgorgement for members of the State Subclasses pursuant to the consumer protection laws of their States;
4. Awarding monetary damages and interest, including treble and punitive damages, pursuant to the common law and consumer protection law claims, and other statutory claims;
5. Awarding costs and expenses, including reasonable fees for plaintiffs' attorneys and experts; and
6. Other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 3, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Sheehan & Associates, P.C.

/s/Spencer Sheehan

Spencer Sheehan

505 Northern Blvd., Suite 311

Great Neck, NY 11021

(516) 303-0552

spencer@spencersheehan.com

E.D.N.Y. # SS-8533

S.D.N.Y. # SS-2056

7:19-cv-08207
United States District Court
Southern District of New York

Justin Clarke, Jane Doe individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiff

- against -

Tillamook County Creamery Association

Defendant

Class Action Complaint

Sheehan & Associates, P.C.
505 Northern Blvd., #311
Great Neck, NY 11021
Tel: (516) 303-0552
Fax: (516) 234-7800

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: September 3, 2019

/s/ Spencer Sheehan
Spencer Sheehan